

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A billing system comprising:

a server for sending a service program stored and permission information regarding ~~distribution~~ a number of other terminals permitted to receive the service program over ~~[[to]]~~ a communication network in response to a predetermined request; and

a plurality of terminals connected to the communication network, wherein one of the plurality of terminals behaves as a server terminal, the server terminal receives the service program and the permission information from the server via the communication network and distributes the service program to the other terminals via the communication network on the basis of the permission information, and the other terminals receive the service program from the server terminal via the communication network,

wherein the server charges the server terminal for the number of other terminals permitted to receive the service program ~~for the number of the distributed service programs~~.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The billing system according to claim 11, wherein the service program includes a server program that enables the one of the plurality of terminals to function as ~~[[a]]~~ the server terminal.

14. (Currently Amended) A billing system comprising:

a server for sending a service program ~~stored~~ and permission information regarding ~~distribution~~ a number of other terminals permitted to receive the service program to a communication network in response to a predetermined request;

a plurality of terminals connected to the communication network, wherein one of the plurality of terminals behaves as a server terminal, the server terminal receives the service program and the permission information from the server via the communication network and distributes the service program to the other terminals via the communication network on the basis of the permission information, and the other terminals receive the service program from the server terminal via the communication network; and

a billing server for charging the other terminals for the distribution, wherein each of the other terminals that received the service program notifies the billing server to charge for ~~the distribution~~ receiving the service program, and the billing server carries out ~~the charge~~ a billing service in response to the notification.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Amended) The billing system according to claim 14, wherein the service program includes a server program that enables the one of the plurality of terminals to function as ~~[[a]]~~ the server terminal.